

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A system for interconnecting a plurality of data communication devices, the system comprising:

a first data communication path for receiving a transmission from a first data communication device;

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an arbitrator operative to automatically:

determine, from the transmission, an identity of a second data communication device,

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determine, from the identity of the second data communication device, a selected one of a plurality of data formats that is expected by the second data communication device, and

convert the transmission into the selected data format determined from the identity of the second data communications device; and

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a second data communication path for transmitting the transmission converted by the arbitrator to the second data communication device.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of data communication devices has an identifying characteristic, and wherein the arbitrator is further operative to:

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maintain a database that stores the identifying characteristics of each of the plurality of data communication devices;

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search the database with the identifying characteristic of the first data communication device to determine the identity of the second data communication device.

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search the database with the identifying characteristic of the second data communication device.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the database stores a method of transport to each of the plurality of data communication devices, and wherein the arbitrator is further operative to:

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9. A system for managing communication among a plurality of data communication devices, the system comprising:

^{cell phone} a first data communication device for dispatching a first data transmission using a first wireless access method;

5 a second data communication device for dispatching a second data transmission using a second wireless access method distinct from the first wireless access method;

^{Internet Terminal} a third data communication device for receiving the first data transmission from the first data communication device
10 and the second data transmission from the second device; and

an arbitrator for:

receiving the first data transmission from the first data communication device,

determining, from the first data
15 transmission, an identity of the third data communication device to receive the data transmission,

determining a data format expected by the third data communication device for the data transmission,

converting the first data transmission to the
20 data format expected by the third data communication device, and

transmitting the first data transmission to the second data communication device.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein each of the
25 plurality of data communication devices has an identifying characteristic, further comprising:

a database for maintaining information regarding the plurality of data communication devices and the identifying characteristic of each of the plurality of data communication

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devices, whereby the arbitrator retrieves the identifying characteristic of the first data communication device from the first data transmission and searches the database with the identifying characteristic of the first data communication device to determine
5 the identity of the third data communication device.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the database stores the data format expected by each of the plurality of data communication devices and the arbitrator searches the database with
10 the identifying characteristics of the first data communication device to determine the data format expected by the third data communication device.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the arbitrator is
15 further operative to compare the data format expected by the third data communication device with a data format used by the first data communication device.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein at least one of
20 the first and second data communication devices is a wireless device.

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14. A method for interconnecting a central data communication device and a plurality of remote data communication devices, wherein the remote data communication devices are associated with a plurality of wireless access methods, comprising:

receiving a first transmission from a first remote data communication device associated with a first wireless access method;

retrieving a first mobile identification number (MIN) for the first remote data communication device from the first transmission;

using the first MIN to identify the central data communication device and a data format expected by the central data communication device;

converting the first transmission so that it is compatible with the data format expected by the central data communication device; and

transmitting the converted first transmission to the central data communication device.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving a second transmission from a second remote data communication device associated with a second wireless access method;

retrieving a second MIN for the second remote data communication device from the second transmission;

using the second MIN to identify the central data communication device and a data format expected by the central data communication device;

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converting the second transmission so that it is compatible with the data format expected by the central data communication device; and

transmitting the converted second transmission to
5 the central data communication device.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

retrieving a first mobile switching center identification number (MSCID) for a mobile switch associated with
10 the first remote data communication device from the first transmission; and

using the first MSCID, along with the first MIN, to determine whether the first wireless access method and the data format expected by the central data communication device are
15 compatible.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving a third transmission from the central data communication device;

20 retrieving the first mobile identification number (MIN) from the third transmission;

using the first MIN to identify the first remote communication device and the first wireless access method associated with the first remote data communication device; and

25 transmitting the third transmission to the first remote data communication device.

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18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
using the first MIN to identify a transmission
path between an arbitrator and a mobile switching center (MSC)
associated with the first remote device.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein using the first
MIN to identify the central data communication device, comprises;
using the first MIN to access a database
maintained by an arbitrator.

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